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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

TO THE

KING'S

MOST

Excellent MAJESTY,

AND TO THE

Commons of England

IN

PARLIAMENT Assembled.

THE

CASE of *William May* Mariner of *London*, and now under Sentence of Death in *Newgate* for Pyracy, as being Steward of the Ship called the *Charles*, run away withal by Captain *Avery*.

THE said *William May* openly confesseth that he had a fair and Legal Trial, and that the Judge did impartially sum up the Evidence or Charge to the Jury, and that the Jury have found him Guilty according to Evidence, so that the said *William May* no way Arraigns the Proceedings against him, nor does he find fault with the Court; but as for the Evidence against him, he could wish for their own Souls Salvation that they had spoke the Truth, and nothing but the Truth, that thereby Innocent blood may not be spilt by Perjury. But the said *William May* not having his Witnesses ready to confront his Accusers, he is now Condemned to Dye merely upon the Testimony of one *David Crea*, a Man whose Life and Conversation has been so Scurrilous, so Vicious, and so Scandalous from his Infancy, that *England* nor *Ireland* never bred a more notorious Malefactor, as shall appear by the Sequel.

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And as for Mr. *Dan* and the the Boy *Middleton*, they both confeſſed that the ſaid *William May* was from firſt to the laſt of that Voyage indiſpoſed, and for part of the time put on Shoar for the Recovery of his Health, which he has not recovered to this day; and as for the ſaid *May*'s receiving a ſhare of the Prey or Spoil from Mr. *Avery*, he could not avoid it, being under a continued force of Confinement; whereas had he not received a ſhare in his ſickneſs he muſt have periſhed in the Infidels Country; which neither Mr. *Dan*, or Mr. *Middleton*, both Witneſſes againſt him, could have denyed in Court, but ſaid as much openly, ſo that it was not their Teſtimonies alone could affect the ſaid *May*; but the Teſtimony of the ſaid *David Crea*, who poſitively Swore what the ſaid *David Crea* knew to be falſe, which the ſaid *William May* is ready to aſſert by his laſt dying Words, and to Seal the ſame with his Blood. And that his Majeſty may not be impoſed upon by ſuch a profligate Wretch as the ſaid *David Crea* is, and that the Judges may put no Eſteem upon the Teſtimony of the ſaid *David Crea* for the future, and that a ſtop may be put to his Miſchiefs, and that no more Innocent Blood may be ſpilt upon the ſaid *David Crea*'s falſe Oath; the ſaid *William May* thought it a Duty incumbent upon him, before his Exit from this World, to the great Eternity, to give both Court, City, and Country the due Character of the ſaid *David Crea*, which is truly in manner following.

1. The ſaid *David Crea* was born in ſome parts of *Ireland*, came young for *England*, and was Bound to Sir *William Crea* in *New Caſtle* upon *Tyne*, where the ſaid *David Crea* behaved himſelf a Thief, a Common Swearer, and a notorious Drunkard, ſo that Sir *William Crea* gave him up his Indentures, and turned him out of Doors. The truth whereof is referred to Sir *William Crea*.

2. The ſaid *David Crea* being infamouſly diſcharged by Sir *William Crea* as aforeſaid, he came for *London*, where he broke open Mr. *Stephen Crea*'s Cloſet, and Stole a quantity of old Gold, ſome Silver Forks and Spoons, and after he had ſo done, in ſome time he confeſſed the Fact, and ſent the ſaid Mr. *Crea* a Letter, wherein he owns to have Stoln the Gold and Goods; which Letter the ſaid Mr. *Crea* declares he has by him to produce. The truth of which is referred to Mr. *Crea*.

3. The ſaid *David Crea*, when in *Spain*, met with one Mr. *Terry*, being then in the Expedition with *Don Arthuro O Bruyn*; the ſaid *Terry* on the account of Sir *William Crea* made much of the ſaid *David Crea*, and ſhewed him the Civility of the Place; and carried him to ſee his Warehouſe, not ſuſpecting the ſaid *David Crea* to be a Thief, or any thing like it: but he no ſooner turned his Back to the ſaid *Crea*, but in the interim the ſaid *David Crea* found the way to Steal from the ſaid *Terry* four hundred Pieces of Eight, above forty Pair of Silk Stockings, which the ſaid *Terry* ſoon miſſed his Mony and Goods; but in ſhort the four hundred Pieces of Eight, and the quantity of Stockings were found upon the ſaid *David Crea*. The ſaid Mr. *Terry* having found his Mony and Goods, was contented to let the ſaid *David Crea* eſcape without any further Proſecution. And for juſtification of the truth hereof, there are two Perſons that were Eye Witneſſes of the taking and finding of the ſaid Mony and Goods upon the ſaid *Crea*, now in *London*; and Mr. *Terry*'s Letter to Mr. *Stephen Crea* to Confirm the ſame.

4. The ſaid *David Crea*, when the Ship *Charles* was run away withal by Captain *Avery*, was on Board the ſaid Ship, and went on Shoar with *Arthuro O Bruyn*: the ſaid *Crea* went for *France*, and at *Dunkirk* he entred himſelf in a Privateer under the Command of Monſieur *Dubart*: this is offered to be proved by the Oath of *William Roy*, who was then a Priſoner in *Dunkirk*, and now in *London*.

5. The

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5. The ſaid *David Crea* having Liſted himſelf with Monſieur *Dubart*, was at the Taking and Sinking of the *England* Frigat, killed the Captain with his own hand, and when the Ship was ſinking the Men leaped over-board, the French were for ſaving all the Men: But the ſaid *Crea*, and four Engliſhmen and two Scotchmen then in the French Service, did what they could to oppoſe it, and to ſink all the Men, becauſe they ſaid they ſhould not live to inform againſt them in *England*; the ſaid *David Crea* was ſeen to beat the poor Souls down as they contended for Life with the Waves, ſo that eighty Perſons that might have been ſaved were all drowned, through the mercileſs Cruelty of the ſaid *David Crea*, inſomuch that the French could never abide him afterwards. The Truth whereof is referred to Mr. *Ryder*, Lieutenant of that Man of War, and to four more of the Crew, of the ſaid Ship, who have all made Oath thereof, and are ready to Atteſt the ſame.

6. The ſaid *David Crea* was at the Taking and Plundering of 14 Merchantmen, one whereof was a Ship belonging to Captain *Francis*; he Robb'd the ſaid *Francis* and ſtripp'd him ſtark-naked, and drank Confuſion to the Rebels of *England*, as alſo to the King and late Queen, and ſaid he hoped ſoon to ſee *England* in Aſhes. All which was ſworn by Captain *Francis* before Sir *Thomas Lane* on the firſt day of *July* 1695. [redacted] ſay the contrary if he [redacted]

7. The ſaid *David Crea* was committed to *Newgate* on the ſecond day of *July* 1695, by Sir *Thomas Lane*, and how he behaved himſelf there ſince towards his own Relations, Benefactors and beſt Friends, as alſo towards thoſe that put off his Trial and hitherto ſaved his Life, I pray obſerve well, and then you will ſay that it is hard that the ſaid *William May* or any honeſt Man ſhall looſe his Life upon the Teſtimony of the ſaid *Crea*. But for that part I ſhall ſay little for my ſelf, being dead in Law and upon the brinks of the great Eternity, but do leave it to the World to Judge of the ſaid *Crea*, and likewiſe to make Obſervations upon his End. I wiſh his Perjuries may not come home to him.

8. The ſaid *David Crea* was ſupported and maintained Gentleman-like by Mr. *Stephen Crea* Merchant, a Man of very good Reputation, and a conſiderable Dealer, and never known to have injured any body in the whole courſe of his Life.

9. But ſuch was the ſaid *David Crea*'s lewd Extravagancy, that a Guinea a Week was nothing with him to ſpend upon his Whores in *Newgate*. The ſaid Mr. *Stephen Crea* finding the ſaid *David* boundleſs in his Expences, confined him to Ten Shillings *per* Week: The ſaid *David* diſguſted thereat, threatned the ſaid *Stephen Crea*, and ſent him ſeveral Meſſages, that if he did not ſupply the ſaid *David Crea* with greater Sums, that *God damn him*, if he would not ſwear High-Treaſon againſt the ſaid *Stephen Crea* and twenty more, all which was ſworn by Mr. *Ray*, and Mr. *Hyde* at Capt. *Vaughan*'s Trial, againſt whom the ſaid *David Crea* was an Evidence, and produced a Letter, aſſerting the ſame to be the ſaid *Vaughan*'s hand-writing, which Letter did not import much; but however, Captain *Gibſon* can well and truly aver, that *David Crea* is as good at Forging of hands, as I have experience (to the loſs of my Life) to ſay that he is effectual in ſwearing of Lyes. And as for his God Damn's and Execrations, take the Abſtract of the ſaid *David Crea*'s own Letters ready to be produced and proved to be his own hand-writing.

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The Abſtract of *David Crea*'s Letters.

Letter dated 4. *July*, 1696. *I Shall bring in a Man againſt whom I ſhall be an Evidence my ſelf, and procure others againſt him likewiſe; and if that takes, as I doubt not but it will, I hope ſoon to be at liberty.*

Letter dated 8. *July*, 1696. *If the Gentleman I aim'd at had been honeſt to me, I ſhould not have had any manner of thoughts of doing him an Injury.*

Letter dated 15. *Aug.* 1696. *I am in that Condition that I have not a Shirt to ſhift my ſelf with, inſomuch that I am full of Vermin, and not fit to come into any cleanly Company, ſo that I leave you to judge how it is with me; beſides, my Brother has reduced the ſeven Shillings* per *Week to five, upon which I cannot, nor will not live. I had rather be hang'd than live as I am; ſo that if I am not reliev'd (By God) it will throw* [redacted] *ſpair, and make me ſtick at nothing; tho' I am ſure my Principles are as good as any body's.*

Letter dated 11. *Sept.* 1696. *I owe here (meaning* Newgate*) about Two and thirty Shillings for Diet,* &c. *the which if I have not to pay I muſt go to the Common Side: But I tell you ſincerely that before I go to the Common Side, to ſtarve and want, I'll take other Meaſures, for* Neceſſity has no Law, *and if I do any thing amiſs, it's not my own fault, but perhaps it may be repented by thoſe that may feel the ſmart on't when too late—— And if nothing can prevail, God Damn me if I ſpare any body.*

O Lord have mercy upon us! What can be more diabolically Wicked than the expreſs Words in the ſaid Letters! Or is it to be thought that any but a Limb of *Lucifer* would make ſo horrid an Imprecation, wiſhing God to Damn him, that if he was not ſupplyed with Money he would ſpare no body, and if he were not reliev'd (by God) it would throw him into Deſpair, and make him ſtick at nothing. Which is ſuch a declaration of his Guilt, and ſuch a demonſtration of his Abominations, that he has no other proſpect, but Swearing againſt and taking away the Life of others, to preſerve his own profligate one.

It is to be noted Firſt, That the ſaid *David Crea* ſtands Indicted of High-Treaſon. Secondly, That Lieutenant *Ryder*, Captain *Francis*, and all the reſt of the Witneſſes were Subpœna'd, and did all attend the laſt Admiralty Court held at *Southwark*, in order to the Trial of the ſaid *David Crea*. And Thirdly, That his Trial was put off on the account of his Witneſſes being abſent, as he pretended. And as for the Abſtract of the ſaid *Crea*'s Letters, it's true they came too late to the ſaid *May*'s knowledge, that is to ſay, ſince his Trial. But however, to ſatisfie the World that there are ſuch things in being, he hopes that for Truths ſake, my Lord Chief Juſtice *Holt*, who Tryed the ſaid *May*, will be pleaſed to ſend for Mr. *Stephen Crea* Merchant in *Watling-ſtreet*, and examine him as to the ſaid Letters, and if it ſhall appear then, that there are no ſuch Letters of the ſaid *David Crea*'s own hand-writing ſufficient to detect his falſe Teſtimony againſt all manner of Perſons, then the ſaid *May* ſhall confeſs himſelf Guilty of what the ſaid *Crea* has ſworn againſt him; But if otherwiſe, and that the ſaid Letters ſhall be produced, and proved, that then my Lord Chief Juſtice and all the World beſides, ſhall infer from the ſaid Letters, That the ſaid *Crea*'s Teſtimony is falſe and not ſufficient to hang a Dog, much leſs a Chriſtian.

FINIS.